

Later today the University of Denver campus will host a rally in honor of the Pioneer hockey champions. While I regret that I can not be there in person to commend this fantastic team, I would like to honor just a few of the great players that made this repeat championship possible. Freshman Peter Mannino, named the Most Outstanding Player of this year's Frozen Four, made an astonishing 44 saves in the championship game including a 23 shot barrage in the third period. Forward Paul Stastny scored two of the Pioneer's four goals with Jeff Drummond and Gabe Gauthier each adding one. Five Pioneers, Forwards Gauthier and Stastny, Defensemen Matt Carle and Brett Skinner, and goalie Mannino were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Today I share my congratulations with the entire University of Denver community. Winning a national title is a rare and precious accomplishment. Winning two championships in a row is all the more rare. This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of many people. Congratulations to all the DU Pioneers. Congratulations to Chancellor Daniel Ritchie, Provost Bob Coombe, President Mark Holtzman, Interim Director of Athletics Stuart Halsall, Coach Gwozdecky and his staff, and especially the Pioneer players, students and fans. You have made us all very proud.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 106) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 106

Whereas the Denver Pioneers first won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Hockey Championship in 1958;

Whereas the University of Denver has won 7 NCAA Division I Men's Hockey Championships, including back-to-back championships in 2004 and 2005;

Whereas on April 9, 2005, the University of Denver won the Frozen Four with a hard fought victory over the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux; and

Whereas the Championship ended a terrific season in which the University of Denver outscored its opponents 170 to 109 and had a record of 31-9-2: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate congratulates the University of Denver Pioneers men's hockey team, Coach George Gwozdecky, and Chancellor Daniel Ritchie on an outstanding championship season, a season which solidifies the Pioneers' status among the elite in collegiate hockey.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. GRIFFIN TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of Michael Griffin to be the Administrator of NASA, and that the Senate proceed to executive session for its consideration. I finally ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements be printed in the RECORD, the President then be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

#### NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Michael D. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration represents our Nation's greatest hopes and aspirations. President Bush nominated Dr. Michael D. Griffin to be the next NASA Administrator on March 14, 2005. Dr. Griffin takes over an agency that is embarking on the President's Vision for Space Exploration, which will take America back to the moon and eventually to Mars. The Vision is NASA's biggest mission since the Apollo program began more than 40 years ago. Dr. Griffin will guide NASA on the first steps of this important journey that will define America's presence in space for the next several decades. At the same time, we still mourn the loss of the *Columbia's* crew as NASA readies the Space Shuttle for its return to flight next month. Dr. Griffin's first task will be to ensure that the shuttle program gets back on its feet safely and effectively. NASA needs its next Administrator immediately, and I thank the Senate for agreeing to the request from Senator INOUE and myself to discharge and approve this nomination.

Dr. Griffin's extensive background in space and science will serve him and NASA well. He is currently head of the Space Department at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Previously, Dr. Griffin was President and Chief Operating Officer of In-Q-Tel, an independent, nonprofit venture group chartered to identify and invest in cutting-edge commercial technologies for intelligence community applications. He has also served as CEO of the Magellan Systems Division of Orbital Sciences Corporation, as General Manager of Orbital's Space Systems Group, and as the company's Executive Vice President/Chief Technical Officer. Prior to joining Orbital,

he was Senior Vice President for Program Development at Space Industries International, and General Manager of the Space Industries Division in Houston.

Dr. Griffin has served in a number of Governmental positions. With NASA, he served as both the Chief Engineer and the Associate Administrator for Exploration, and within the Department of Defense—DOD—he served as the Deputy for Technology at the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization—SDIO. Before joining SDIO, Dr. Griffin played a leading role in numerous space missions while employed at the Johns Hopkins APL, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Computer Sciences Corporation. He holds seven degrees in the fields of physics, electrical engineering, aerospace engineering, civil engineering, and business administration, and has been an Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University, the Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland. He is the lead author on more than two dozen technical papers and the textbook *Space Vehicle Design*. He is a recipient of the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal and the DOD Distinguished Public Service Medal. He is also a Registered Professional Engineer in Maryland and California, and a Certified Flight Instructor with instrument and multi-engine ratings.

Dr. Griffin succeeds a close friend and former leader of my staff, Sean O'Keefe. Sean did an admirable job getting the agency's finances under control and, more importantly, holding NASA together after the *Columbia* tragedy. We were lucky NASA had such a leader during that trying time. At the Commerce Committee's hearing on Dr. Griffin's nomination I spoke of my recent travels with Sean, during which I was approached repeatedly by people who raved about Dr. Griffin. They all said he was the man for the job if he could be convinced to accept it. I am pleased the President appointed Dr. Griffin and I look forward to working closely with him and his team of talented professionals.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 14. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic